

**Wenatchee
Public Meeting**
Wenatchee Valley Museum
Minutes
May 10, 2003

Commissioners present: Leo Gaeta, Mario Reyes, Becky Diaz, Edward Davila, Alice Castilleja-Lara and Diana Avalos

Commissioners absent: Yvonne Lopez-Morton and Gabriel Banfi

Staff present: Antonio Ginatta and Vita Echeverria

Approval of minutes

Commissioner Davila motioned to approve the minutes from the Mount Vernon public meeting. Commissioner Diaz seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Davila: Working with the Highline School District regarding a levy and getting it passed. It was successfully passed by 68%.

Commissioner Diaz: Working on the Computer Wizards Program, which recently got two offices donated.

Chair Gaeta: Spoke about health care issues and child-care provider issues. He said that parents could be involved in fundraising for events. He used an example of the parents who sold tamales to raise money for scholarships.

Commissioner Reyes: He has been actively working with non-profit agencies in the Wenatchee area. Spoke about the event that he helped plan for the Wenatchee Community Center and how it was a success with Governor Locke attending. He thanked Michelle Danley for her assistance in making it possible to have the Governor attend.

Commissioner Castilleja-Lara: She has been working with a group in Yakima to get a new police chief hired. Handed out an article from Charities USA, a Catholic Charities USA magazine, entitled: "Farmworkers Find Homes in Washington's Yakima Valley."

Commissioner Avalos: Her main focus is education, so now that she has been appointed the new chair of the education committee of the Commission she will be taking a look at the METT proposal document and the framework. She also mentioned that she has been working on building the relationship between the Vancouver youth and law enforcement. Announced that Vancouver is planning a Latino Festival in September.

Executive Director Report

Spoke about the CHA budget cuts and the reduction in staff. Explained the co-location of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs into the same building where CHA is currently located.

Personnel Committee

Director Ginatta explained the selection process for the candidate positions that are currently available.

Education Committee

Commissioner Davila mentioned that they have been involved with the passing of HB1079. He introduced Commissioner Avalos as the new chair of the Education Committee and also thanked Alice for inspiring him to take on issues. Commissioner Avalos spoke about the METT document that was proposed in 1990. The document is the framework for the education service districts.

Emergent Issues Committee

Director Ginatta stated that the committee would be meeting to discuss the legislative agenda.

Ad-hoc Committee on Meeting Participation

The committee will be developing a meeting checklist to increase the attendance of the public to commission meetings.

Unfinished Business

Chair Gaeta explained the election process and discussed necessary changes to the CHA's administrative policies. When the previous Chair ended his term before its expiration, a new election was held instead of an election to finish the incomplete term, as required by the administrative policies. This decision resulted in the election policies becoming incorrect. Commissioner Castilleja-Lara made a motion to change elections from even years to odd. Becky seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Commissioner Diaz made a motion to standardize the time for study sessions to take place. She moved that study sessions be held from 3:00-6:00 p.m. on the day previous to the public meeting. Commissioner Davila seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Commissioner Gaeta spoke about the legislative reception and asked the commissioners to volunteer in the planning of the legislative reception. Commissioner Lopez-Morton and Commissioner Davila were appointed to the ad-hoc committee on the planning of the legislative reception in January.

Public Comments

Ricardo Sanchez, Latino Educational Achievement Project: Spoke about the passing of HB 1079 and about his motivation to help the students get this bill passed. He praised Representative Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney for all her hard work in getting the bill passed. Soon he will be inviting U.S. Representative Doc Hastings to talk to the

students in Wenatchee about legislation that can help them. Today he asked the commissioners to take information back to their communities regarding the DREAM Act and the Student Adjustment Act so that their communities can contact their congressmen.

He also stated that the best time to contact the legislators would be between the dates of: May 26 through May 30 and June 30 through July 4.

Rep. Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney: Spoke about the state budget and how it is at a \$2.6 billion deficit. She also spoke about the rise of unemployment, education and healthcare cuts. She encouraged the public to contact their legislators about the budget cuts because the rich keep getting tax breaks while the poor continue to get none. Regarding HB 1079, she stated that Washington is only one out of five states to get this type bill passed. Then she talked about the \$5.00 fee that is currently being discusses for adult ESL Classes. She also wanted to publicly recognize Governor Locke for vetoing the amendment to HB1079 that would have effectively killed the bill and then signing it into law.

Commissioner Davila asked if there were any plans to have a letter or memo sent to the higher education institutions explaining what type of identification undocumented students could present to qualify for in-state tuition now that the bill has passed. Rep. Gutierrez-Kenney mentioned that she would be meeting with the higher education board regarding how students can file an affidavit explaining that they will be filing for residency or citizenship. Once the affidavit is on filed with the institution the documents will get sealed.

Jesus Hernandez, Wenatchee School Board: Concerned about the Basic Health cuts and how the cuts are being targeted towards Latinos. He said that we need to get more Latinos to advocate for our children.

Dora Trevino, DSHS: Works for DSHS, spoke about her concerns about the potential of cutting the budget for First Steps (prenatal care), especially the proposed elimination of eligibility for undocumented expectant women. She mentioned that in 1999 she had addressed the Commission because a gang had murdered her son. At that point in time she made a promise to fight youth violence. Thanked CHA for helping her along with the process and making it possible for her to keep her word.

Jorge Chacon: His primary concern is the public health of children and families. For the past three years they have worked to get a local community center established. The community has had to deal with many issues like health care, gangs and other ones that have already been identified. He said that there are not enough adequate services for children and families. The students with issues or problems in schools usually get appointed case managers instead of special need professionals that are trained to work with the families. He asked everyone to take a look at the health care issues and help solve the problems. People in the communities do not feel comfortable calling the police for help because they feel that they are being ignored by law enforcement.

Commissioner Davila acknowledged how much Dora Trevino has made a difference to state of Washington, and that she has shown her investment in the community. He expressed how much he cares about her and her commitment.

Unidentified speaker: Asked the question about where he could go as a father and as an employee to organize the community. He was concerned about people in the community not knowing where to go to get the services they need, especially if they don't know the language. He stated that they needed to be very progressive with the gang issues in the community.

Marta Davis (ECIE): Works with Electronic Communication and Information Exchange in Tacoma. ECIE teaches the youth how they can use it as a tool to build strong ties and relationships with their communities by using the Internet.

Commissioner Reyes recognized Dr. Keith Williams, director of the Wenatchee Valley Museum for his assistance in providing the assistance from the museum staff and the meeting location.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:05 am. Meeting followed by Latino Conference (speaker list attached).